

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 910**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**

February 18, 2005

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An act to add Section 13984 to the Government Code, relating to life sciences.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 910, as introduced, Mullin. Life sciences: ombudsman.

Existing law establishes in the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency various economic development programs with the purpose of promoting economic development in California.

This bill would establish in the agency the Life Sciences Ombudsman Program and the position of Life Sciences Ombudsman with responsibility to work with the life sciences industry and the Commerce and Economic Development Program to identify incentives provided by the state for life science companies to operate in this state, serve as a liaison between new and expanding life sciences companies and local agencies in connection with licensing and zoning issues, and guide these companies through the permitting process. This bill would authorize the secretary of the agency to accept private sector moneys for this purpose and require that private donations be deposited into the State Life Sciences Ombudsman Account, which would be established in the Special Deposit Fund. It would provide that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the secretary may expend the moneys in the account, without regard to fiscal years, for the purposes of these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of  
2 the following:

3     (a) California is home to more life science companies than any  
4 other state.

5     (b) During the past few years, competition in life sciences has  
6 increased from other states and foreign countries that see the  
7 potential of biotechnology for their economies.

8     (c) Because California is at a distinct disadvantage in  
9 attracting new life science companies to California and in  
10 assisting life science companies to expand in California, it is  
11 necessary to create a life sciences ombudsman in the Business,  
12 Transportation and Housing Agency.

13     SEC. 2. Section 13984 is added to the Government Code, to  
14 read:

15     13984. (a) There is hereby established in the Business,  
16 Transportation and Housing Agency the Life Sciences  
17 Ombudsman Program and the position of Life Sciences  
18 Ombudsman.

19     (b) The Life Sciences Ombudsman will work with the life  
20 sciences industry and economic development programs in the  
21 agency to do all of the following:

22         (1) Identify incentives provided by the state for life science  
23 companies to operate in this state.

24         (2) Serve as a liaison between new and expanding life sciences  
25 companies and local agencies in connection with licensing and  
26 zoning issues.

27         (3) Guide new and expanding life sciences companies through  
28 the permitting process.

29     (c) Funding for the purposes of this section may come from  
30 any source, including, but not limited to, federal funding and  
31 private donations. The secretary may accept private sector  
32 moneys donated to the state and specified to be for the purposes  
33 of the Life Sciences Ombudsman Program and ombudsman  
34 position. All private sector moneys shall be deposited into the  
35 State Life Sciences Ombudsman Account, which is hereby  
36 established in the Special Deposit Fund in the State Treasury.  
37 Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the secretary may expend

- 1 the moneys in the account, without regard to fiscal years, for the
- 2 purposes of this section and for no other purpose.

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